IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 14 without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of network resources adapted to process received block-based protocol data access requests; and

a plurality of ~~one or more~~ virtual servers each comprising a logical partitioning of the network resources to establish an instance of a multi-protocol server configured to service the block-based data access requests by converting the block-based protocol requests to appropriate file system data requests, each virtual server allowed shared access to resources of the file system; and

a context data structure provided to each virtual server, the context data structure including information pertaining to a security domain of the virtual server for each supported access protocol, to enable controlled access to the shared resources of the file system.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the network resources comprise network interfaces assigned to one or more network address resources.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising storage media configured to store information as units of storage resources, the units of storage resources allocated among each of the virtual servers.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the units of storage resources comprise volumes.

5. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the units of storage resources comprise qtrees.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3 further comprising an operating system having a file system resource adapted to perform a boundary check to verify that a request is allowed to access certain units of the storage resources on the storage media, each virtual server allowed shared access to the file system and further adapted to create virtual disks within the units of storage resources and wherein each of the virtual disks associated with one or more of the virtual servers.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the operating system further comprises a user interface having a command set adapted to operate on virtual disks, and wherein the command set executes within a context of a virtual server.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the user interfaces comprises a command line interface (CLI) adapted to support the command set.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the CLI comprises a lun command adapted to perform operations to a virtual disk associated with the context of the virtual server.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the lun command creates a logical unit number on a file system associated with the server, the logical unit number being associated with the context of the virtual server.

11. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the CLI comprises an igroup command that generates a set of file system primitive for binding an initiator group to one or more initiator addresses and wherein the initiator group is associated with the context of the virtual server.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the block-based protocol comprises iSCSI.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the block-based protocol comprises FCP.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the multi-protocol server is further adapted to process data access requests in response to one or more file-level protocols.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for implementing a virtual server, the method comprising the steps of:

adapting a plurality of network resources to process received block-based protocol data access requests; ~~and~~

partitioning the network resources to establish ~~one or more~~ a plurality of virtual servers, each comprising an instance of a multi-protocol server configured to service the block-based data access requests by converting the block-based protocol requests to appropriate file system primitives; and

providing a context data structure to each virtual server, the context data structure including information pertaining to a security domain of the virtual server for each supported access protocol, to enable controlled access to the shared resources of the file system.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of configuring storage media to store information as units of storage resources, the units of storage resources allocated among each of the virtual servers.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the units of storage resources comprise volumes.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the units of storage resources comprises qtrees.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing executable program instructions for implementing a virtual server, the executable program instructions comprising program instructions for:

adapting a plurality of network resources to process received block-based protocol data access requests; ~~and~~

partitioning the network resources to establish ~~one or more~~ a plurality of virtual servers, each comprising an instance of a multi-protocol server configured to service the block-based data access requests by converting the block-based protocol requests to appropriate file system primitives; and

providing a context data structure to each virtual server, the context data structure including information pertaining to a security domain of the virtual server for each supported access protocol, to enable controlled access to the shared resources of the file system.

21-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a block-based data access request from a client;

forwarding the request to a virtual server;

performing security checks on the request using a context data structure provided to each virtual server, the context data structure including information pertaining to a security domain of the virtual server for each supported access protocol, to enable controlled access to the shared resources of the file system;

converting the received block-based data access request to a file system data access request;

in the event that the request passes the security checks, servicing the file system data access request to generate a response; and

forwarding the generated response to the client.

25. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a network interface to receive a block-based data access request from a client;

the network interface to forward the request to a virtual server;

the operating system to perform security checks on the request using a context data structure provided to each virtual server, the context data structure including information pertaining to a security domain of the virtual server for each supported access protocol, to enable controlled access to the shared resources of the file system;

in the event that the request passes the security checks, a process to convert the received block-based data access request to a file system data access request;

the process to service the file system data access request to generate a response; and

the process to forward the generated response to the client.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer readable media, comprising:

said computer readable media containing instructions for execution on a processor for the practice of a method, the method comprising:

receiving a block-based data access request from a client;

forwarding the request to a virtual server;

performing security checks on the request using a context data structure provided to each virtual server, the context data structure including information pertaining to a security domain of the virtual server for each supported access protocol, to enable controlled access to the shared resources of the file system;

converting the received block-based data access request to a file system data access request;

in the event that the request passes the security checks, servicing the file system data access request to generate a response; and

forwarding the generated response to the client.